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- (3) & (4) The Government have not the detailed information. The total tree-tax for faslis 1331 and 1332, i.e., for the years previous and subsequent to the revision was as follows :—

	RS.
Fasli 1331	31,254
Fasli 1332	74,325

- (5) The differentiation in regard to ownership of fallen trees is due to the fact that in Tanjore there has survived an older system of taxation under which the trees planted on assessed land were taxed instead of the land on which they grow. This system has disappeared in all other districts. The same fact explains the reason why the Government lowered the rate for Tanjore.

Village Officers.

Village shanbhogues of South Kanara.

128 Q.—Mr. B. MAHABALA HEGDE: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the grievances of village shanbhogues of South Kanara (karnams) have come to the notice of Government?

A.—The Government are not aware of the grievances of the village shanbhogues of South Kanara nor have they received any representations from them.

Village officers whose services were dispensed with under the regrouping of villages.

129 Q.—Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of village officers whose services were dispensed with in consequence of the regrouping of villages effected by Government during the last two years;

(b) in how many cases appeals were preferred to the Collector;

(c) in how many of such cases the Collector has revised the orders of the Divisional officers;

(d) in how many cases appeals or revision petitions were preferred to the Board of Revenue against the orders of the Collector; and

(e) in how many of such cases the Board revised the orders of the Collector?

A.—Regrouping of villages is effected by the Board of Revenue with reference to the provisions of the Madras Act II of 1894 and Act III of 1895. The number of village officers and menials whose abolition the Board has sanctioned during the last two calendar years is given below, but the actual number dispensed with is not known as the process of carrying out the orders is still going on :—

	Karnams.	Assistant Karnams.	Headmen.	Monigars.	Vettis.	Nirgantis.	Talayaris.
Ryotwari areas ..	1,138	608	2,356	885	5,751	1,035	4,979
Proprietary areas ..	511	12	494	51	24	1	266

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Against this must be set off the increase of 472 in the number of triune officers in proprietary estates.

As regards the other clauses of the question, the collection of the statistics will involve an undue amount of work in the district offices. The Government do not therefore propose to ask the Board to undertake this.

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—“ However much it may be inconvenient to call upon the Collectors to furnish information as to the number of appeals received from the village officers in view of the labour involved, I don't think there will be any difficulty in getting the information from the Board of Revenue. I expect that in a place like the Board of Revenue, well conducted as it is, there is a register maintained containing the appeals that have been preferred and another column showing what was done with each appeal, whether it was allowed or rejected. So will the hon. Member be pleased to reconsider his decision and propose to ask the Board of Revenue to give information about a matter about which so much of hardship is felt and much feeling is entertained all over the Presidency ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF KOLLENGODE :—“ I shall call for the information.”

Water-supply.

Bellary water-supply scheme.

130 Q.—Mr. K. ABDUL HYE SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are willing to take up the Bellary water scheme which has been kept in abeyance for want of funds ;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a great scarcity of drinking water in Bellary town and that the two or three wells which are the main source of supply are getting dried up for want of rain ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Collector of Bellary has pressed the said point several times and, if it is so, what action has been taken on his representation ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the supply of water in the Fort ditch has been reserved solely for the Mappilla convicts ; and

(e) for how many months the supply of water in the Bellary town will last ?

A.—(a) The Government have already decided to take up the scheme at once for execution and have agreed as a very special case to bear 75 per cent of the initial cost of the scheme. The Bellary Municipal Council has been asked to report immediately whether it agrees to impose the taxation required to finance its share of the capital cost and to meet the maintenance charges.

(b) The Government understand that owing to the failure of the rains the water level in all the main sources of supply is very low for this time of the year. These sources are reported to be (1) the artesian well, (2) the Fort ditch, (3) the mainwaring and Nulla tanks and (4) some wells.

(c) The answer is in the affirmative. The Chief Engineer was specially sent to Bellary to report on the water-supply scheme. Work will be commenced very soon and it is expected that the scheme will be completed in less than a year.